

VZCZCXYZ0330
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPE #3707 3312213
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 272213Z NOV 07
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7382
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY 1853
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 5295
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7675
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3199
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0936
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NOV 4629
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 9375
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 1597
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 1618
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 003707

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/23/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PTER](#) [SNAR](#) [PE](#)
SUBJECT: GOP DEALS ANOTHER BLOW TO SL REMNANTS

REF: LIMA 2927

Classified By: DCM James D. Nealon. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) A Peruvian National Police (PNP) operation, carried out in the early morning hours of November 27, killed one and captured eight members of the "Shining Path" (Sendero Luminoso) organization in the Upper Huallaga River Valley (UHV) in Huanuco Region. Epifanio Espiritu Acosta, known as "Comrade JL", third in the UHV organization and leader of its forces on the western side of the Huallaga River, was killed in the attack. The eight suspects captured included the organization's ideological chief, "Comrade Julian", as well as the head of personal security for the group's leader. (UHV-SL leader "Comrade Artemio," is a top priority target of continuing PNP security operations.) Two suspects were injured in the confrontation and transported to a nearby hospital for medical attention. The other six were taken to Lima for questioning.

¶2. (C) Comment: This is a big success for the PNP, and one that sent the Minister of Interior Alva Castro hurrying out to the region to participate in the action. Coupled with earlier strikes (ref A), this most recent PNP operation has dealt a severe blow to the SL remnant group of approximately 150 members operating in the Upper Huallaga Valley. Peruvian authorities have long claimed they were closing in on "Comrade Artemio". Now, with key members of his support structure gone, Artemio is more vulnerable. His capture would deal a death blow to the Upper Huallaga Valley-based SL organization. (A separate SL remnant column of some 350 members continues to operate in the VRAE.) Analysts see the successful security operation as an example of the effective and rapid use of intelligence to counter narco-terrorism in Peru -- a practice the GOP will need to continue if its efforts to stem narco-terrorism are to succeed.
MCKINLEY